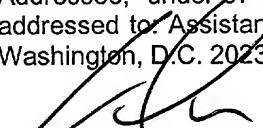


PATENT

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Craig A. Slavin

Applicant: Thompson et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Filing Date: January 22, 2002

Title: Assembly For Creating
Compound Curves in Distal
Catheter Regions

Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Examiner: Unassigned

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification:

On page 1, prior to line 1, please insert the following:

Cross Reference to Related Applications

This application is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 09/054,257, filed April 2, 1998, which is a continuation of U.S. application Serial No. 08/645,456, filed May 13, 1996, now U.S. Patent No. 5,820,591, which is a continuation-in-part of Application Serial No. 08/625,724, filed March 29, 1996, now abandoned, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 08/099,603, filed July 30, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,395,327, which is a continuation of Application Serial No. 07/991,474, filed December 16, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,254,088, which is a continuation of

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Application Serial No. 07/736,384, filed July 26, 1991, now abandoned, which is a divisional of Application Serial No. 07/473,667, filed February 2, 1990, now abandoned.

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-7 without prejudice.

Please add claims 8-51 as follows:

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8. A device, comprising:
 - a main body portion defining a proximal end and a distal end and including a pre-bent portion between the proximal and distal ends;
 - a deflectable portion associated with the distal end of the main body portion and deflectable relative to the main body portion; and
 - at least one operative element carried by the deflectable portion.
 9. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the main body portion comprises a catheter body.
 10. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pre-bent portion comprises a pre-bent wire biased to a predetermined curvature.
 11. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the pre-bent portion comprises a thermally formed tube biased to a predetermined curvature.
 12. A device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the pre-bent portion further comprises a pre-bent support biased to the predetermined curvature.
 13. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the deflectable portion comprises a steering spring.

14. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein pre-bent portion defines a pre-bent portion plane and the deflectable portion deflects within the pre-bent portion plane.

15. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein pre-bent portion defines a pre-bent portion plane and the deflectable portion deflects out of the pre-bent portion plane.

16. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least two directions.

17. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least four directions.

18. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one operative element comprises an electrode.

19. A device as claimed in claim 8, wherein the at least one operative element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

20. A device as claimed in claim 8, further comprising:
a steering mechanism, operably connected to the deflectable portion, that bends the deflectable portion relative to the main body portion.

21. A device as claimed in claim 20, wherein the steering mechanism comprises at least one steering wire secured within the deflectable portion.

22. A device as claimed in claim 21, wherein the steering mechanism further comprises a handle connected to the proximal end of the main body portion and to the at least one steering wire.

23. A catheter, comprising:

a main body portion defining a proximal end and a distal end and including a pre-bent portion located proximal of, and substantially adjacent to, the distal end, the pre-bent portion defining a pre-bent portion plane;

a deflectable portion, including a steering spring defining first and second sides and configured to bend in the pre-bent portion plane, associated with the distal end of the main body portion and deflectable relative to the main body portion;

first and second steering wires connected to first and second sides of the steering spring; and

at least one electrode carried by the catheter deflectable portion.

24. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the pre-bent portion comprises a pre-bent wire biased to a predetermined curvature.

25. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the pre-bent portion comprises a thermally formed tube biased to a predetermined curvature.

26. A catheter as claimed in claim 25, wherein the pre-bent portion further comprises a pre-bent support biased to the predetermined curvature.

27. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the steering spring comprises a first portion configured to deflect in the pre-bent portion plane and a second portion configured to deflect out of the pre-bent portion plane.

28. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, wherein the at least one electrode comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

29. A catheter as claimed in claim 23, further comprising

a handle connected to the proximal end of the main body portion and to the first and second steering wires.

30. A device, comprising:
a main body portion defining a proximal end and a distal end and including a malleable portion between the proximal and distal ends;
a deflectable portion associated with the distal end of the main body portion and deflectable relative to the main body portion; and
at least one operative element carried by the deflectable portion.

31. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the main body portion comprises a catheter body.

32. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the deflectable portion comprises a steering spring.

33. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least two directions.

34. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least four directions.

35. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the at least one operative element comprises an electrode.

36. A device as claimed in claim 30, wherein the at least one operative element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

37. A device as claimed in claim 30, further comprising:
a steering mechanism, operably connected to the deflectable portion, that bends the deflectable portion relative to the main body portion.

38. A device as claimed in claim 37, wherein the steering mechanism comprises at least one steering wire secured within the deflectable portion.

39. A device as claimed in claim 38, wherein the steering mechanism further comprises a handle connected to the proximal end of the main body portion and to the at least one steering wire.

40. A device, comprising:
a main body portion defining a proximal end and a distal end;
a deflectable portion associated with the distal end of the main body portion and deflectable relative to the main body portion;
a pre-bent stylet movable within the main body portion; and
at least one operative element carried by the deflectable portion.

41. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the main body portion comprises a catheter body.

42. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the deflectable portion comprises a steering spring.

43. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least two directions.

44. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein deflectable portion deflects in at least four directions.

45. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein pre-bent stylet defines a pre-bent stylet plane and the deflectable portion deflects within the pre-bent stylet plane.

46. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein pre-bent stylet defines a pre-bent stylet plane and the deflectable portion deflects out of the pre-bent stylet plane.

47. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the at least one operative element comprises an electrode.

48. A device as claimed in claim 40, wherein the at least one operative element comprises a plurality of spaced electrodes.

49. A device as claimed in claim 40, further comprising:
a steering mechanism, operably connected to the deflectable portion, that bends the deflectable portion relative to the main body portion.

50. A device as claimed in claim 49, wherein the steering mechanism comprises at least one steering wire secured within the deflectable portion.

51. A device as claimed in claim 50, wherein the steering mechanism further comprises a handle connected to the proximal end of the main body portion, to the at least one steering wire, and to the pre-bent stylet.

REMARKS

Claims 1-7 have been canceled. Claims 8-51 have been added. Claims 8-51 remain in the application. Early and favorable consideration of the application, as amended, are respectfully requested. Allowance of the claims at an early date is courteously solicited.

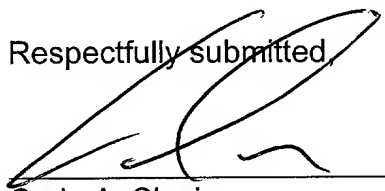
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call applicant's undersigned representative at (310) 563-1458 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0638. Should such fees be associated with an extension of time, applicant respectfully requests that this paper be considered a petition therefor.

1/22/02

Date

Respectfully submitted,



Craig A. Slavin
Reg. No. 35,362
Attorney for Applicant

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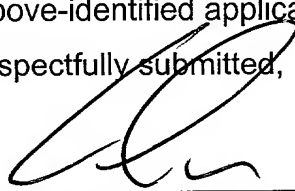
FORMAL DRAWING TRANSMITTAL LETTER

Sir:

We enclose for filing the formal drawings for the above-identified application.

Respectfully submitted,

1/22/02
Date


Craig A. Slavin
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Attorney for Applicant

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